

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JA, PARM, TECH, IAEA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIMURA'S UN SPEECH

SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS, FOCUSING ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION ASPECTS, HAS GIVEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE TREATMENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S SEPTEMBER 24 UNGA SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

1. ALONG WITH COVERAGE OF PRIME MINISTER'S CANADIAN TRAVELS, JAPANESE PAPERS ON SEPTEMBER 25 GAVE FRONT PAGE PLAY TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIMURA'S SPEECH AT UNGA. STRAIGHT NEWS ACCOUNTS HIGHLIGHTED KIMURA'S REMARKS RE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND
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PROPOSALS FOR ECOSOC TO COORDINATE UN EFFORTS IN DEALING WITH

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

2. SEPTEMBER 26 EDITORIAL COMMENT IN MORNING PAPERS FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON ASPECTS OF KIMURA ADDRESS DEALING WITH NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ISSUE. MOST EDITORIALS SUPPORTED KIMURA CALLS FOR END TO PROLIFERATION AND TERMINATION OF TESTING, AND HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT GOJ WOULD MOVE FORWARD TO BRING ABOUT DIET RATIFICATION OF NPT. ALTHOUGH BASICALLY BACKING FOREIGN MINISTER, INDIVIDUAL PAPERS DID, HOWEVER, SINGLE OUT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HIS PROLIFERATION-RELATED REMARKS FOR MILD CRITICISM. ONE, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID THAT KIMURA'S SPEECH DID NOT REFLECT STRONG ENOUGH INDIGNATION RE FACT NUCLEAR POWERS STILL EXPANDING THEIR ARSENALS AND CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO PREVENT SPREAD OF WEAPONS. SANKEI STRUCK NEGATIVE NOTE ON JAPANESE NPT RATIFICATION, DECLARING IT UNLIKELY THAT JAPANESE RATIFICATION WOULD INFLUENCE ATTITUDES OF NUCLEAR COUNTRIES ON PROLIFERATION QUESTION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER AND COULD IMPEDE JAPANESE EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR ENERGY CAPABILITIES.

3. COMMENT: EDITORIAL WRITERS REALLY DID NOT HAVE MUCH TO SAY ON KIMURA'S UN SPEECH AND ESSENTIALLY SEEMED TO BE GOING THROUGH MOTIONS SINCE ADDRESS BY FOREIGN MINISTER OBLIGED THEM TO SAY SOMETHING. DESPITE GENERALLY FAVORABLE PRESS, HOWEVER, MOFA, OF COURSE, IS WELL AWARE OF INTERNAL LDP DIFFICULTIES WHICH MIGHT LIE AHEAD AS REFLECTED IN ONE NEWS ARTICLE SOURCED TO MOFA OFFICIAL IN WHICH HE STRESSED NEED FOR COORDINATION AND PRUDENCE IN PROCEEDING WITH RATIFICATION EFFORTS. END COMMENT. HODGSON

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